Scharff, John M.

[Baden bei Wien, Austria],
1893 - 1921

A. SCHARFF
III. Bz. K.K. Münze

Wien 11. Juni 1893

Hochgeehrter Herr!

Meine Frau & ich bitten den
Ausdruck herzlichster Theilnahme
an dem namenlosen Unglücke,
welches Sie & Ihre werthe Familie
getroffen aufzunehmen.
Bitte der gnädigen Frau Empfeh-
lung & Ihnen selbst herzlichst
Grüss.

Hochachtungsvoll

Scharff

Ginskeldrigg-Gasse 5,
Baden bei Wien, 3. Novemb. 1921.

Mr. George F. Kunz,
405 Fifth Avenue New York City.

Dear Sir:

Permit me that I begin, to give you - to a stranger for my family but I very benevolent stranger[x] - the sad communication, that I have lost in the past month my poor dear wife, a victim of the sorry circumstances in these unhappy years, to which her weakened, bad nourished poor body not could resist! Excuse me, now a poor old man, who had lost the fortune of his life——

And now you will allow me, that I return in the interest of the survivors of my artist-brother Anthony to an affair of business.

In yours estimated letter of the date 8 march 1921 had you friendly said: „If you have any of his medals or any of the casts of his works that you would care to dispose of, I might be able to interest some people here and obtain some money for them. If you could write and let me know if you have anything of that kind, I would be glad to inform you as to what I could do in the matter."

[x] who had said, so friendly wishes for the health of my wife

The survivors and heiresses of my brother – his widow (Augusta Schanoff) and his daughter (Ella, married Riedl, and the only grand-daughter) live with the son in law (Nikolaus Riedl, colonel) in Hungary: Budapest, Andrassy-street 117. Because of the in the last time often perturbated relations enter Austria and Hungary had it wanted a long time till I could come in relation over the matter with my sister in law.

You have probably thought only to singular pieces, but now results, that the complete (in the highest degree) collection of the whole rich work of my deceased brother – although in various forms – exist and that only these complete collection will and can be alienable from the precedently nominate proprietors.

I self remember me, that very short time before the war a project was in consideration, that a rich Austrian would acquire the collection and dedicate it (for interested reasons: obtaining a higher grade of nobility) to the Emperor-King for the country. The war and the revolutions has destroyed this nighly finished project and now wish the proprietors to alienate the collection somewhere, where the work of my brother is estimated.

The enclosed papers give to you or to others reverences of my brother or to other persons having an interest for his work an exposition at large over the state of the collection (till now deposited at Vienna).

I have commanded copies of the single exemplaries of the two catalogues sended to me from Budapest, but I have also self taken pains to make an extract of the rich content of the collection (salvo errore!), as follows:

The collection includes: 317 stamped medals („geprägte Medaillen"), 9 cast(?) medals (two sides, „gegossene Medaillen"), 88 cast medals (one side), 34 stamped plaquettes, 22 cast plaquettes, 23 Tetors and 16 „Klippen" (both: corner medals) 185 plaster-casts („Gypsabgüsse"), 10 lead-casts („Bleiabgüsse") and the last, but an eminent specialty of the collection:

320 wax-models, the original-works of the artist!

The price shall be: 60.000 Dollars.

I have personally not at all an interest in the price-question. But when I remember me to one side on the enthusiastical wishes cabled to the 50th birthday of my dear brother (10th june 1895) undersigned from a great number of admirers of his art in the United-States and on the other side on the very excessive prices, which medal-dealers in all countries since long time with „Scharff-medals" demand and obtain, can I the named price (equal in peace only 300.000 austro-hungary crowns) only judge as a very moderate.

In case, that you, dear Sir, or other persons would

further transact in the matter, it would perhaps — excuse me — be recommandable to denote to me or to my kindred a man of yours confidence in Austria or in Hungary who could inspect the collection.

Believe me very truly
yours always gratefull
Dr John Michael Schaaff

P.S. I do not know, if the adress: 601 Carlleton Parkway" in yours last letter is a new (24 Juin 1921)
adress for you, therefore I have adressed as before „405 Fifth Avenue N.Y. City". —

Enclosed also for yours collection an other autograph of my deceased brother. —

Would you give me the permission to pray, that you give me friendly next to a confirmation on simple post card over the reception of this whole sending!

December 13th, 1911

Dr. John Michael Scharff
Christalnigg-Gasse 5
Baden bei Wien
Austria

Dear Sir:

Your letter of November 3rd addressed to Dr. George F. Kunz has been referred by him to me for reply.

I presume that Dr. Kunz has already responded to you direct, stating that he is not in a position to consider your offer, and I am sorry to add that I do not know of any collectors in America at the present time who would care to purchase this collection.

With your permission, however, I should like to retain in our library the list of medals which you sent to Dr. Kunz. If it is not possible for you to grant this request, kindly advise me and I will return the list immediately. I thought perhaps it might be well for you to have such a list on file in our Museum, where it could be referred to by anyone who might make enquiries regarding the medals of your distinguished brother.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

SPE/E

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